

To whom it may concern:

I oppose eliminating the ban on "cross ownership." It is vital to our democracy that our news media are independent and voice their different opinions. This keeps a check on our government, which itself only provides news that has been spun and filtered so many times that it is completely unreliable. Allowing newspaper and television media companies to merge according to the new rules will negatively affect the independence and variety of opinions of America's news outlets. News outlets that are owned by large media companies are often negatively influenced by the owner company's drive for profit rather than dedication to good journalism. It becomes very difficult to know whether a news outlet is reporting the truth or only something that hides the truth but will please the owner company's investors. Furthermore, if more news outlets will be owned by fewer, but larger, media companies, the news outlets may be forced to adapt their reporting to a common profit-making model provided by the large media companies. In sum, the proposed rules will result in less critical and diverse reporting and will destroy a medium that is critical to the well-being of our democracy. I therefore urge you not to adopt the proposed rules. Thank you.